

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-25 were pending in this application. In the Office Action mailed June 4, 2004, claims 1-5, 11, 18-21 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,559,874 to Panosh ("Panosh"). Claims 6-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panosh in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,889,839 to Nataf ("Nataf"). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panosh in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,881 to Conklin et al. ("Conklin"). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panosh in view of Nataf and further in view of Conklin et al. Claims 22-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panosh. Claims 15-17 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating allowable subject matter. In the present Amendment, Claims 2 and 18 have been amended to clarify the present invention. Claims 4-5 have been amended to correct matters of form. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-2, and 4-25 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment, and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Panosh. Claim 1 recites features of the present invention that prevent a telephone call from being initiated on a line telephone connection when use of the telephone line is detected (see

monitor 150 in Figure 1). Call prevention is facilitated by taking a device (Figure 1, item 140) connected to the telephone off hook (“activating the switch hook of the device to go off hook”). Although Panosh discloses a device to prevent an unauthorized telephone unit from initiating a call, Panosh does not teach a method or a system that activates a “switch hook . . . to go off hook” in response to detecting a use of a telephone line. The “energizing of a coil of relay 62” of Figure 2 of Panosh cited by the Examiner causes a filter 64 to be connected in parallel across a ring and tip line so that current is conducted therebetween (column 4, lines 46-50). Panosh teaches that when an illegal phone is detected off hook, a timer causes the relay to be intermittently activated, which intermittently connects the filter between the ring and tip lines, thereby disrupting attempts to dial (column 5, lines 2-10). However, intermittently causing a filter to be connected between lines, as taught by Panosh, cannot reasonably be construed to constitute “activating the switch hook of the device to go off hook.” Accordingly, Panosh does not teach a method for preventing telephone calls from being initiated, wherein upon detecting telephone line use, a switch hook is activated “to go off hook.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in allowable condition, and request that the rejection thereto be removed.

Claim 18 as amended, recites a telephone line monitoring device for a telephone line that has a switch hook that can be placed in an off hook position to prevent a telephone connected to the line from placing a call (“including a switch hook for alternatively placing the telephone line monitoring device in an on-hook or off-hook position, whereby a telecommunication apparatus operatively connected to the telephone network line is unable to place an outgoing call using the

telephone network line when the monitoring device is in an off-hook position"). Since, for the reasons stated above, Panosh does not teach a device that prevents a call by placing the "monitoring device . . . in an off-hook position," claim 18 should also be allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Panosh be removed.

Claim 2 is amended to clarify that when a security switch is enabled, a switch hook can be activated to go off hook in response to a detected phone use ("enabling a security switch that can be enabled or disabled, wherein when the security switch is enabled, the switch hook is activated to go off hook when use of the telephone line by a telecommunications apparatus connected thereto"). Support for this can be found in page 1, line 13- page 2, line 15.

At least for their dependence on allowable claims, claims 2-17 and 19-25 should also be allowable, upon entry of the present Amendment.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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